Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 11006 071624Z

70

ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 /022 W

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R 071242Z NOV 75 FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1925 INFO USIA WASHDC AMEMBASSY ACCRA AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: STATUS REPORT FESTAC

STATE FOR CU/AF, USIA FOR IAA FROM PAO

- 1. JEAN-PIERRE PREVOST, OFFICIAL FESTAC DELEGATE FROM FRANCE, OVERNIGHTED LAGOS EN ROUTE PARIS AFTER ATTENDING ACCRA AFRICAN CULTURAL CONFERENCE AS OBSERVER. HE TOLD ME ACCRA CONFERENCE PRINCIPALS WERE VIRTUALLY ALL SAME INDIVIDUALS AS FESTAC INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE AND SAID THAT DEVELOPMENTS AT ACCRA WILL SHAPE PLANNING FOR REVISED FESTAC DURING INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING IN LAGOS LATE THIS MONTH.
- 2. HIS PRINCIPAL OBSERVATIONS: NEW DATE FOR FESTAC TO BE FALL 1976, OCTOBER OR NOVEMBER; LESS ATTENTION WILL BE GIVEN TO BLACK CULTURE OUTSIDE AFRICA THAN ORIGINALLY PLANNED; REPRESENTATION FROM NORTH AFRICA WILL BE SIGNIFICANTLY GREATER THAN PREVIOUSLY FORESEEN.
- 3. PREVOST SAID MAJOR RESULT ACCRA CONFERENCE WAS "DEFEAT" OF SENGHOR "NEGRITUDE" CONCEPT OF AFRICAN CULTURE AS TWO DISTINCT STRAINS-NORTHERN AFRICA AND BLACK AFRICA. SPEARHEADED BY ALGERIAN INITIATIVES, WITH FIRM SUPPORT FROM NIGERIAN AND MOST OTHER DELEGATIONS, CONFERENCE ADOPTED POSITION THAT AFRICAN CULTURE ENCOMPASSES AFRICAN INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF THE CONTINENT WITHOUT ANY NORTH-SOUTH DISTINCTIONS. HE WAS DEEPLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IMPRESSED BY STRONGLY EXPRESSED INTENTIONS OF MOST COUNTRIES

REPRESENTED TO SPEED UP TEACHING OF LOCAL NATIONAL LANGUAGES AND
GREATLY REDUCE DEPENDENCE ON "FOREIGN" OCCIDENTAL LANGUAGES.
EASUM

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: OEXC, NI, (PREVOST, JEAN-PIERE)
To: STATE

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